

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**3 APRIL 2019**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Berkeley - Engineer Arrested on Charges of Attempting to Poison Colleague**

(U) David Xu, 32, chemical engineer, was arrested on attempted murder charges after he was caught on surveillance footage allegedly spiking a colleague's water bottle with "toxic amounts of cadmium," authorities said. Although unrelated, Xu's case comes a year after a 57-year-old German man was arrested in the poisoning deaths of 21 co-workers at a valve manufacturing plant in Schloss Holte-Stukenbrock, Germany. The man had spiked their sandwiches with high levels of cadmium and mercury. SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [ABC News](#)

(U) Los Angeles - Three Indicted in Alleged 'Darknet' Drug Ring that Shipped Drugs Overseas

(U) A federal grand jury has indicted a Hollywood man and two Panorama City residents on allegations they were part of a trafficking ring that purchased methamphetamine via the "darknet" and then shipped the drugs to buyers in the Philippines, New Zealand, Poland, and other foreign destinations. A security manager at a Van Nuys shipping company notified federal authorities after nearly 21-kilograms of illicit drugs were found in seven parcels that had been destined for the Philippines. Following a raid on the suspects' homes, authorities found suspected drug labs, more than \$150,000 in cash, and a loaded AK-47-style rifle.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [Los Angeles Daily News](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia - US VP Pence Calls for Release of Detained Americans**

(U) Washington - Vice President Mike Pence called on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to immediately release six American oil executives who have been jailed for more than a year without trial. The United States contends Maduro's election last year was illegitimate, and supports opposition leader Juan Guaido's claim to the presidency. Pence said five American citizens and one legal permanent US resident, all with roots in Texas and Louisiana, are being "illegally detained." The men are all employees of Houston-based Citgo, a longtime US subsidiary of the Venezuelan oil giant PDVSA.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [Washington Times](#)

(U) Florida - Chinese Woman Carrying 'Malware' Arrested at Mar-a-Lago

(U) Palm Beach - Yujing Zhang, has been charged with two federal crimes: making false statements to a federal officer and entering restricted property. She was carrying four cellphones, one laptop, one external hard drive, and a thumb drive, according to court records. In a charging document, a US Secret Service (USSS) agent said the thumb drive contained malware. The court filing did not provide further details about the nature of the malware. Zhang originally told USSS that she wanted to use the pool, but upon further questioning said she traveled from Shanghai to attend a "UN Friendship Event," and planned to speak with a member of the US President's family about US-Chinese economic relations.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [Miami Herald](#)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Form # 1168-442e-b407-de1a8c242c14

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U) Idaho - 13 Arrested in Major Meth and Heroin Trafficking Case

(U) Mountain Home - Thirteen people have been arrested in what local law enforcement called “a major methamphetamine and heroin drug trafficking case.” One of the suspects, Raymond Jones of Modesto, California, and his female companion Haley Graves – also a resident of California – were among those arrested. Jones is believed to have been the ringleader and major drug dealer of methamphetamine and heroin in the area, according to investigators. A third California resident, Kevin Houston II, was charged with drug trafficking and introduction of a controlled substance into a correctional facility.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [KIVI TV](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Egypt - Authorities Sentence Dozens to Prison on Terror Charges**

(U) Cairo - Egypt has sentenced more than 70 suspected members of the Muslim Brotherhood group to prison on terror-related charges. The Ismailia criminal court yesterday sentenced nine of the defendants to 15-years in prison and 43 others to 10-years. Another 22 were sentenced to three to seven years, and 14 were acquitted. The defendants were accused of burning police vehicles and attacking a coffee shop. The violence came in response to the dispersal of two mass sit-ins in Cairo in 2013, in which security forces killed hundreds of Brotherhood supporters. The Brotherhood won a series of free elections following Egypt’s 2011 “Arab Spring” uprising but was branded a terrorist group after the military overthrew an elected but divisive Islamist president in 2013.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [Washington Times](#)

(U) France - Several Catholic Churches Attacked and Defaced

(U) Paris - Catholic churches have increasingly come under attack in France by thieves, vandals, and anti-religious persons. A recent fire at St. Sulpice, the second-largest church in Paris, has underscored a trend that has become common in smaller towns. Among attacks on churches in February, religious statues have been smashed in a Paris suburb, and another decapitated in Saint Gilles Croix de Vie. Attacks on other religious sites, especially Jewish and Muslim properties, have also risen but are fewer than those on Catholic churches.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [Washington Post](#)

(U) Mexico - Cartel Gunmen Kidnap and Beat 11 Police Officers

(U) Mexico City - Cartel gunmen kidnapped 11 police officers during the weekend, disarming and detaining them for hours. The officers were traveling in two police trucks when their attackers surrounded them, ordering them to get out and forcing them to kneel, according to media. The gunmen, who had been in three SUVs, took the officers’ weapons and cell phones and beat them, and then released them near a highway in Mexico City. The officers had finished responding to a call about an attempted theft of gasoline from an oil refinery. Roughly 1,200 people were kidnapped in Mexico in 2017, which has been a problem in the country since criminal organizations began carrying them out in 2006 to get ransoms to finance their illicit activities. Last month, an armed gang in Mexico kidnapped 22 passengers who were hauled off a passenger bus.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [Fox News](#)

(U) Mexico - Gang Leader Linked to the Sinaloa Cartel Captured

(U) Culiacán - The alleged leader of the criminal gang Los Demonios, linked to the Sinaloa Cartel, was captured by soldiers in the city of Culiacán, Mexican authorities said yesterday. Known as Juan "N", "El J-3", and "El Chepa", the detainee is considered by the Mexican authorities to be the operator of the Sinaloa Cartel in drug trafficking—heroin, methamphetamines and cocaine—and firearms between Mexico and the United States. The illicit operations were mainly directed to the cities of Tucson and

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Form # 1168-442e-b407-de1a8c242c14

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Phoenix, Arizona, via the Nogales border with the Mexican state of Sonora.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [Telemundo](#)

(U) Syria - Hundreds of Children Alone at Camp Where ISIS Fled

(U) Al-Hasakah - The International Red Cross says a humanitarian emergency is unfolding in the al-Hol camp in northeast Syria, with people who fled the last battlefields of the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). Al-Hol camp, in Hassakeh province is now reportedly overwhelmed, and holds between 80,000 and 100,000 people. Red Cross explained that Kurdish authorities who control the area separate ISIS fighters and boys between the ages of 12 and 18 whom they view as likely fighters and put them in detention. Women and children are sent to al-Hol, which is roughly comprised of two-thirds children under age 12 and one-third mothers.

SOURCE: 2 April 2019, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

Warning: This document is the exclusive property of the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code Sec. 6250-6270). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with STAC policy relating to U//FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized STAC official. No portion of this report should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.

This document contains excerpts of suspicious activities and incidents of interest to the STAC as obtained from open and unclassified sources.